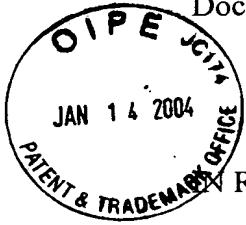


Docket No.: 197748US0PCT



RECEIVED
JAN 20 2004
TECH CENTER 1600/2900

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Michinobu NAKAMURA, et al.

: EXAMINER: AFREMOVA

SERIAL NO.: 09/674,280

:

FILED: DECEMBER 21, 2000

: GROUP ART UNIT: 1651

FOR: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING PROTEIN HYDROLYZATE

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

In response to the Official Action dated July 14, 2003, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendment and remarks.

Amendments to the Claims begins on page 2 of this response.

Support for the Amendments begin on page 5 of this response.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this response.